

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application. Withdrawal of the pending rejections and allowance of claims 1-10 are respectfully requested.

**Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103**

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over an article entitled “Design of a Fast Restoration Mechanism for Virtual Path-Based ATM Networks,” by Cho-ju Hou (“Hou”) in view of an article entitled “Design of Self-Healing Algorithm for ATM-Networks,” by Gao et al. (“Gao”). Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Each of the claims of the present invention includes, *inter alia*, distributing information to nodes in a network concerning: (a) total bandwidth reserved by each link in the network for all active paths currently defined in the network; and (b) total bandwidth reserved by each link in the network for all backup paths currently defined in the network.

The Examiner admits that Hou fails to disclose the feature of “total bandwidth being reserved by each link in the network for all active paths currently defined in the network”. However, the Examiner attempts to overcome the noted deficiency of Hou by arguing that Gao discloses “reserving bandwidth for active paths (page 3, lines 5-10; page 4: “link bandwidth division”). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Gao appears to disclose the division of bandwidth of each link in a network into three parts: normal bandwidth, reserved bandwidth and available bandwidth (page 4, left hand column

entitled "Link Bandwidth Division"). Applicants submit that a bandwidth which is divided into three parts is not the same as a total bandwidth reserved for all active paths.

Accordingly, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Gao that information distributed to nodes in a network concerns a total bandwidth reserved by each link in the network for all active paths currently defined in the network, as recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, because the combination of Hou and Gao fails to disclose or suggest the subject matter of claims 1-10, they cannot provide a basis for a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Claims 2-4 are also allowable by virtue of their dependency on independent claim 1, and for the other patentable features recited therein.

Independent claim 5 is allowable for the similar reasons discussed above with regard to independent claim 1. Claims 6-10 are allowable by virtue of their dependency on independent claim 5, and for the other patentable features recited therein.

Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of claims 1-10 is respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John E. Curtin at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

In the event this Response does not place the present application in condition for allowance, applicant requests the Examiner to contact the undersigned at (703) 668-8000 to schedule a personal interview.

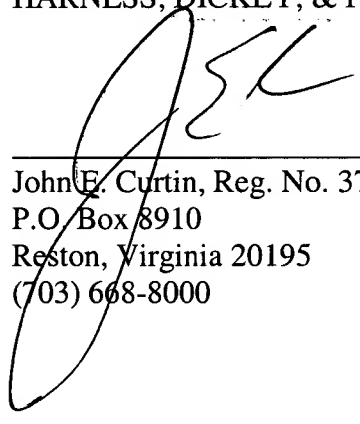
If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any

additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By



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